[Mr. Antony George.]

(*a*) whether the claims of any senior clerks in the Registration Department have been overlooked by the Director of Registration in the matter of confirmation and promotion ; and

(*b*) if there have been any, why it was done so ?

**RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI** (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Seniority alone does not entitle one to promotion. Passing of the departmental test, efficiency and character are also important factors.

*Execution of urgent works by P. W. Division officers.*

•275. ✻**MR. K R. ELENKATH** (*Kalkulam I*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Division Officers of the P. W. D. are empowered to sanction at least small amounts for executing urgen works such as closing up of breaches in banks between fields and running streams or tanks?

**MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT** (*Chief Engineer*) ; Yes, if the work comes within the powers delegated to the Division Officers.

**MR K. R. ELENKATH** (*Kalkulam I*) : May I know from the member the smallest amount which he could sanction without the permission of the Chief Engineer for the purpose ?

**MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT** (*Chief Engineer*) : There is a G. O. dealing with it and I shall be pleased to show it to the member.

*Boat Basin for the Alleppey Port.*

276. ✻**MR. M. N. NAIR** (*Kottayam I*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are aware of the difficulties that are being undergone by the boat-owners at present to keep their boats safe during rough weather for want of a boat-basin at the Alleppey Port ;

(*b*) whether they are aware that, during monsoon times, boats are taken nearly ten miles away from the port for safe keeping and that, at times it takes even more than one day for the boatmen to bring in their boats to the port for unloading goods from the steamers that touch the port during the period ;

(*c*) whether the Government have received representations from the merchants and boat-owners for the provision of a boat-basin at the port ; and

(*d*) what action they have taken in the matter ?

**MR. T. C. THOMMEN** (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The matter is receiving attention as part of the Scheme for the improvement of the Port.

*Shipping at the Alleppey Port.*

277. ✻**MR. M. N. NAIR** (*Kottayam I*) : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of steamers

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